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United States Patent [19]

Younan et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** 5,437,735[45] **Date of Patent:** Aug. 1, 1995[54] **PHOTOVOLTAIC SHINGLE SYSTEM**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** 136/251; 136/244; 136/291; 52/173.3

[58] **Field of Search** 136/244, 251, 291; 52/173.3

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A photovoltaic roofing shingle includes a strip of roofing material having an overlap portion, and a plurality of tab portions depending therefrom. Each of the tab portions includes a photovoltaic generating device affixed thereto. The photovoltaic devices are electrically interconnected, and each photovoltaic shingle member includes a pair of electrical terminals for delivering power from said photovoltaic devices. In use, the shingle members are affixed to a roof so that the tab portions of one row of shingles cover the overlap portion of an adjoining row. Electrical interconnection may be made through the roof to the inside of the building, or to a point atop the roof.

20 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets